

Moreover, the star wheel of Richtsmeier et al. has no relation to the heating rollers of Muranaka. Since Muranaka provides the heating rollers upstream of the print head, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace one of the heated rollers of Muranaka with the star wheel of Richtsmeier et al. Accordingly, the combination of the alleged admitted prior art, Muranaka and Richtsmeier et al. fail to disclose or suggest the star wheel of claim 3 in combination with the inkjet printer of claim 1.

In view of the above, claims 1-5 are allowable over the art of record.

Rejection of Claims 7-11

Claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the alleged admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,420,621 to Richtsmeier et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,111,250 to Kashiwagi. It is noted that the discussion of the rejection on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action discuss Muranaka which is not cited in the rejection in paragraph 2 and fails to discuss the relevance of the Richtsmeier et al. patent in this rejection. Clarification of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is directed to a discharge and heating roller for use with an inkjet printer having a heat conductive central portion, a rubber covering on the cylindrical portion for generating friction and a heat generator disposed on an inner surface of the cylindrical portion in an axial direction. The cited art does not disclose or suggest the combination of these features. In particular, the alleged admitted prior art described in the specification does not disclose a structure for the heated roller. Thus, the specification disclosing the alleged admitted prior art does not disclose a heat conductive cylindrical portion with a rubber covering and a heat generator disposed on an inner surface of the cylindrical portion.

Richtsmeier et al. relates only to a star wheel and has no relation to claims 7-11. As noted above, Muranaka is directed to a heating device for heating the paper at a charge applying

station. Muranaka provides no motivation or incentive to provide a discharge and heating roller for use with an inkjet printer as claimed. Kashiwagi is directed to a heat fixing device for a toner which can be heated by a nichrome wire. However, Kashiwagi fails to disclose a discharge and heating roller for use with an inkjet printer. Therefore, the combination of the cited art fails to disclose or suggest the combination of the claimed features. Thus, claim 7 is not obvious over the combination of the cited art. The secondary references provide no motivation or incentive to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of the alleged prior art as suggested in the Action.

The art of record also fails to disclose the discharge heater roller being disposed close to a print head as in claim 8, the cylindrical portion of the discharge and heating roller being aluminum as in claim 9, the rubber coating being formed of a heat resistant material as in claim 7, or the heat generator including a nichrome wire as in claim 11 either alone or in combination with the features of claim 7. Accordingly, claims 7-11 are not obvious over the combination of the cited art.

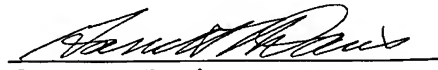
Rejection of Claim 6

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the alleged admitted prior art in view of Muranaka and Richtsmeier et al. and further in view of Kashiwagi. Kashiwagi is cited for disclosing a heat generator formed from a nichrome wire.

As discussed above, Kashiwagi does not disclose or suggest a heating and discharge roller as in the claimed invention. Furthermore, the combination of the alleged admitted prior art, Muranaka and Richtsmeier et al. do not suggest the inkjet printer of claim 1. Therefore, Kashiwagi provides no motivation or incentive to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the devices of the primary references in the manner suggested in the Action. Accordingly, claim 6 is not obvious over the combination of the cited art.

In view of the deficiencies of the cited art and the above comments, claims 1-11 are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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